

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED:

1. (Currently Amended) An information carrier medium which comprises:

at least first and second sheet members each having first and second surfaces opposite to each other, said first and second sheet members being laminated together with the first surface of the first sheet member bonded to the first surface of the second sheet member; and

a security indicium formed on at least one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members, said security indicium being made of at least one inking material of a kind ~~capable of~~ for responding to a coherent light when irradiated thereby; ~~and~~

an overlay film integrated with an outer surface of said at least first and second sheet members laminated together, the overlay film having a magnetic strip layered on an outer surface thereof.

2. (Original) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inking material is of a kind capable of absorbing the coherent light.

3. (Original) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inking material is of a kind capable of emitting light when irradiated by the coherent light.

4. (Original) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inking material is capable of scattering light when irradiated by the coherent light.

5. (Original) The information carrier medium as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the security indicium formed on such one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members is invisible to naked eyes.

6. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical reader for reading an information carrier medium comprising at least first and second sheet members each having first and second surfaces opposite to each other, said first and second sheet members being laminated together with the first surface of the first sheet member bonded to the first surface of the second sheet member, and a security indicium formed on at least one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members and made of at least one inking material ~~of a kind capable of~~ for responding to a coherent light when irradiated thereby, and an overlay film integrated with an outer surface of said at least first and second sheet members laminated together, the overlay film having a magnetic strip layered on an outer surface thereof; said reader comprising:

a source of projecting the coherent light towards the information carrier medium to illuminate a portion of the information carrier medium in register with the security indicium;

a photo-detector means for detecting rays of light obtained from that portion of the information carrier medium; and

a determining means connected with the photo-detector for comparing an output from the photo-detector with a reference signal stored therein to verify an authenticity of the information carrier medium.

7. (Original) The electro-optical reader as claimed in claim 6, wherein the security indicium is made of two inking materials capable of responding to different wavelengths of light, respectively, and wherein the photo-detector means comprises first and second photo-detectors for detecting the different wavelengths of light.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of verifying ~~authenticity~~ authenticity of an information carrier medium comprising at least first and second sheet members each having first and second surfaces opposite to each other, said first and second sheet members being laminated together with the first surface of the first sheet member bonded to the first surface of the second sheet member, and a security indicium formed on at least one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members and made of at least one inking material ~~of a kind capable of~~ for responding to a coherent light when irradiated thereby, and an overlay film integrated with an outer surface of said at least first and second sheet members laminated together, the overlay film having a magnetic strip layered on an outer surface thereof; said method comprising the steps of:

projecting a coherent light towards the information carrier medium to illuminate a portion of the information carrier medium in register with the security indicium;

detecting rays of light obtained from that portion of the information carrier medium by means of a photo-detector means;

comparing an output from the photo-detector means with a reference signal stored therein; and

in the event that the output from the photo-detector means matches with the reference signa signal, determining that the information carrier medium is authentic.

9. (Previously Presented) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 2, wherein the security indicium formed on such one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members is invisible to naked eyes.

10. (Previously Presented) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 3, wherein the security indicium formed on such one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members is invisible to naked eyes.

11. (Previously Presented) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein the security indicium formed on such one of the first surfaces of the respective first and second sheet members is invisible to naked eyes.

12. (New) The information carrier medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least first and second sheet members are made of an opaque synthetic resin containing a polyvinyl chloride copolymer as a principal component, and said overlay film is made of a hard polyvinyl chloride.